It has been decided by Government of India to constitute a "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development and a "National Council for Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The composition, terms of reference etc. of the Committee and the Council are being finalized.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in U.P. and Uttarakhand

991. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is running a Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Programme in States like Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand since the last decade, or so;

(b) if so, how many villages have successfully been covered under this scheme so far;

(c) whether the villagers and rural based NGOs are actively involved in the planning, construction and operation of their water delivery system; and

(d) whether Government will cover far-flung villages in tribal and backward districts in other States like Vidarbha region of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Government of India has two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) to supplement the efforts of the State Government for providing water supply and sanitation services in rural areas. Each State Government, including Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, is competent to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply and sanitation schemes from the funds provided under ARWSP and CRSP.

(b) As on 1.4.2007, as per ARWSP norms for coverage there are 2, 57,385 Fully Covered (FC) and 1,722 Partially Covered (PC) habitations in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttarakhand, there are 12,852 FC and 5,077 PC habitations in the State. All 70 districts in Uttar Pradesh and 13 districts in Uttarakhand have been covered under Total Sanitation Campaign.

(c) Since the State Government are empowered to plan sanction, execute and implement the water supply schemes, the involvement of villagers and rural based NGOs in the planning, construction and operation of their water delivery systems has been left to the State Governments to decide. TSC guidelines permit engagement of NGOs and Voluntary Organizations in TSC projects for various activities. However, their engagement is decided by the respective project implementing agencies in the States.

(d) Drinking Water supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman which has been conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years, from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure in all parts of the country under which all uncovered and slipped-back habitations are to be covered and water quality problem is to be addressed.

Wasteland Development Programme in Maharashtra

992. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wasteland Development Programme is being implemented by Government for non-forest wasteland development;

(b) If so, details thereof;

(c) The wasteland developed so far in the State of Maharashtra and proposed to be done by 2008-09; and